MAILERS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

eVS/PTS User Group
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 8, 2013
3:30pm – 4:30pm EST

Attendees:
Malai Sethuraman, Bobbi Richardson, Henry Chau, Chet King, Margaret Choiniere, Delisa Barr, Francine Mowka, Peter Furka, John Gregory, Juliaann Hess, Stacy Ibarra, Jeff Waite, Jim Wobensmith, John Kilcoin, Joe Rothwein, Peter Klausner, Andy Lundgren, Robert Myers, Paula Stoskopf, Richard Porras, Roger Franco, Ryan Seipp, Shawn Baldwin, David Stachovitz, Neal Vereen, Kate Westermann, Nicole Wilson, Joel Prescott, Margaret Reese, Jeff Freeman, Heather Dyer, Vicki Bosch, Alvin Serrano, Beth Fluto, Randy Kohlstedt, Sean Smith, Mark Riffey, Julian Thomas, Lisa Hyater, Marsha Martinez, Crystal Stefanko, Heidi Gapinski, Priya Nagarajan, Jennifer Kamens, Joel Stoffel

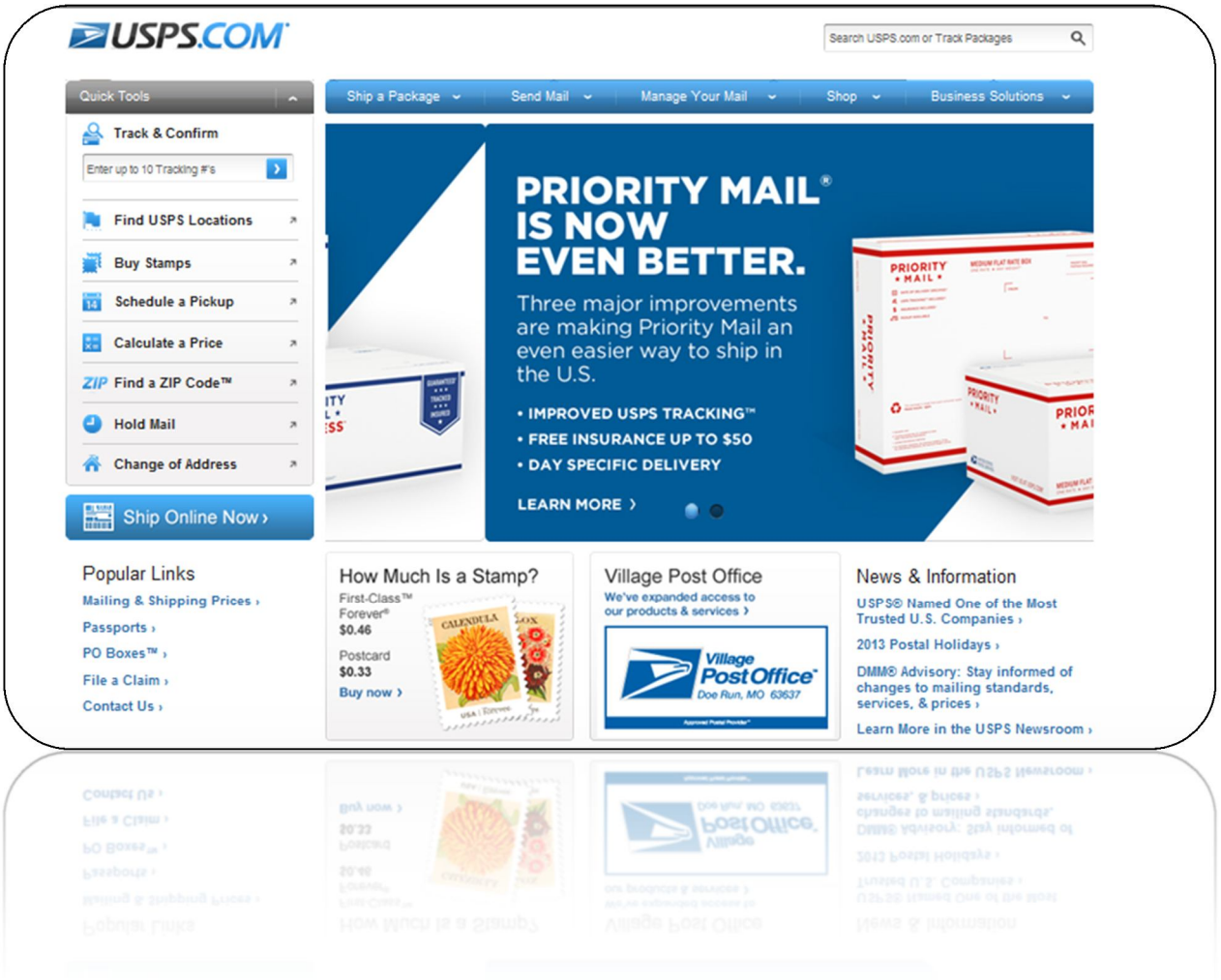
Welcome – Kate Westermann

- Roll Call

USPS.com Optimization Project – Beth Fluto

- September Tracking Application Improvements to be released September 19, 2013
- Includes name change to remove "Confirm"
    - USPS Track and Confirm to USPS Tracking
- Based off of user feedback and usability studies
- USPS.com has over 2 million hits a day
- Beth's slides follow

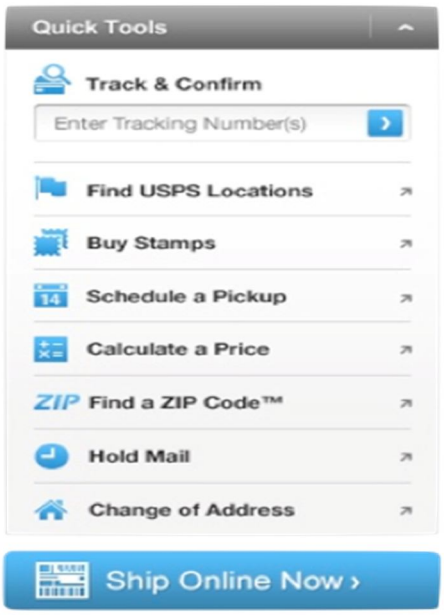
Current USPS.com Home Page



USPS.com Home Page: Quick Tools

OLD

NEW



Changes:

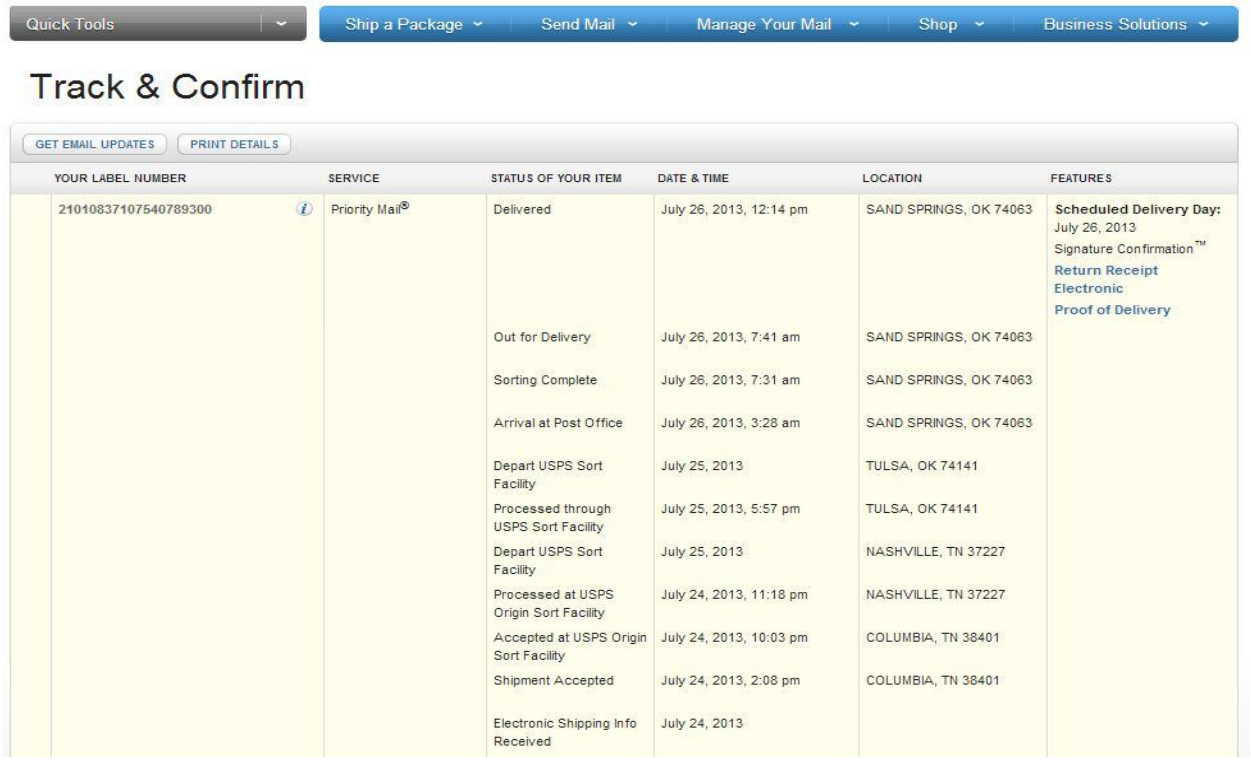
Track & Confirm
Streamline access to highest volume site function
Track & Confirm to be renamed USPS Tracking

Change of Address & Hold Mail
Expose highly used (and searched) functions currently buried in navigation.

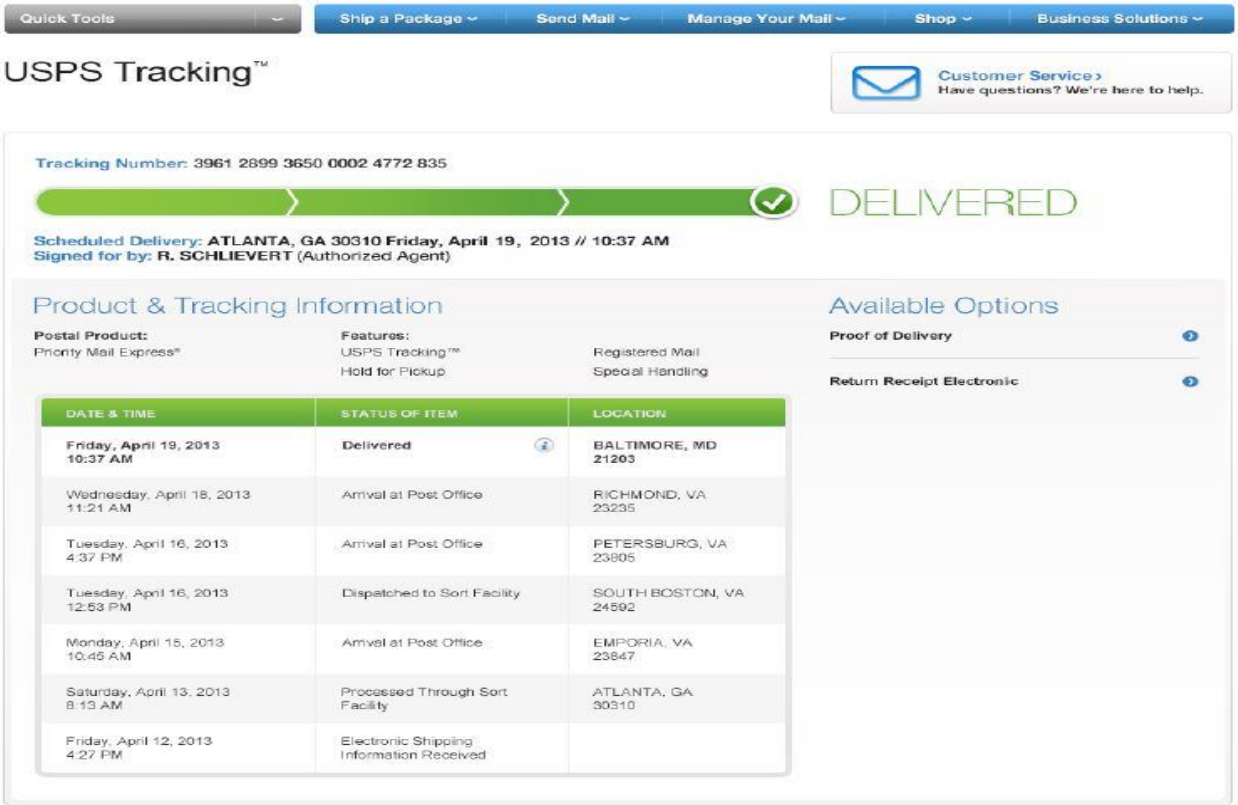
Schedule a Pickup
Publicize key service, currently hidden within navigation.

User Experience
Modernize actions, eliminating modals and dated instructions.

Old USPS Tracking



New USPS Tracking

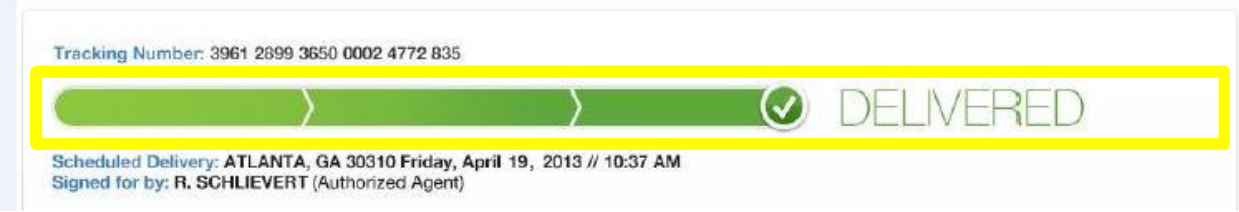


Shipment Status

OLD

SERVICE	STATUS OF YOUR ITEM	DATE & TIME
Priority Mail®	Delivered	July 26, 2013, 12:14 pm
	Out for Delivery	July 26, 2013, 7:41 am
	Sorting Complete	July 26, 2013, 7:31 am
	Arrival at Post Office	July 26, 2013, 3:28 am

NEW



Shipment Details and History

OLD

SERVICE	STATUS OF YOUR ITEM	DATE & TIME	LOCATION	FEATURES
Priority Mail®	Delivered	July 26, 2013, 12:14 pm	SAND SPRINGS, OK 74063	**Scheduled Delivery Day:** July 26, 2013 Signature Confirmation™ Return Receipt Electronic Proof of Delivery
	Out for Delivery	July 26, 2013, 7:41 am	SAND SPRINGS, OK 74063	
	Sorting Complete	July 26, 2013, 7:31 am	SAND SPRINGS, OK 74063	
	Arrival at Post Office	July 26, 2013, 3:28 am	SAND SPRINGS, OK 74063	
	Depart USPS Sort Facility	July 25, 2013	TULSA, OK 74141	
	Processed through USPS Sort Facility	July 25, 2013, 5:57 pm	TULSA, OK 74141	
	Depart USPS Sort Facility	July 25, 2013	NASHVILLE, TN 37227	
	Processed at USPS Origin Sort Facility	July 24, 2013, 11:18 pm	NASHVILLE, TN 37227	
	Accepted at USPS Origin Sort Facility	July 24, 2013, 10:03 pm	COLUMBIA, TN 38401	
	Shipment Accepted	July 24, 2013, 2:08 pm	COLUMBIA, TN 38401	
	Electronic Shipping Info Received	July 24, 2013		

NEW

Product & Tracking Information

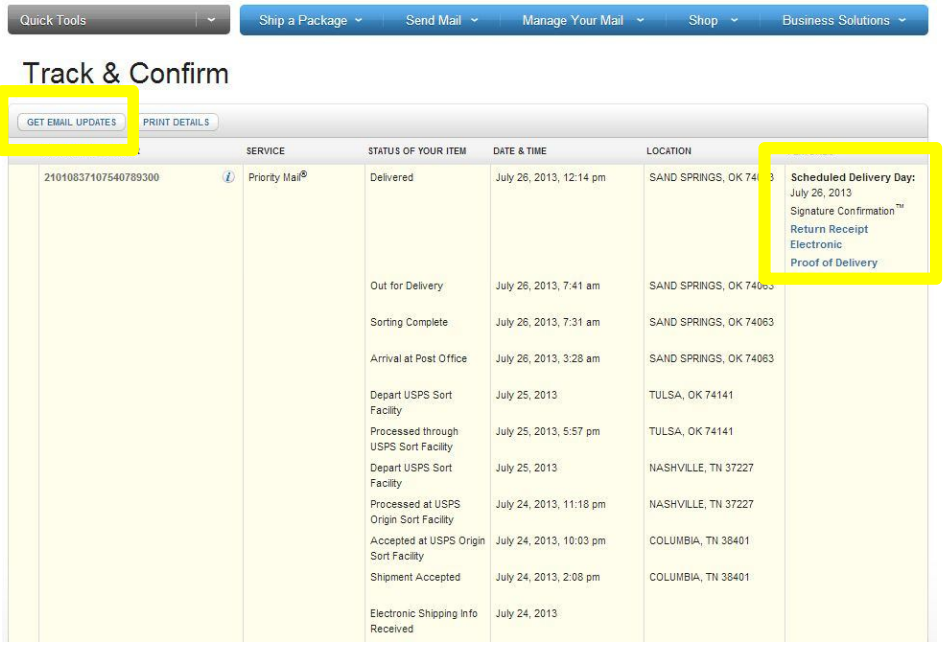
Postal Product:
Priority Mail Express®

Features:
USPS Tracking™
Hold for Pickup
Registered Mail
Special Handling

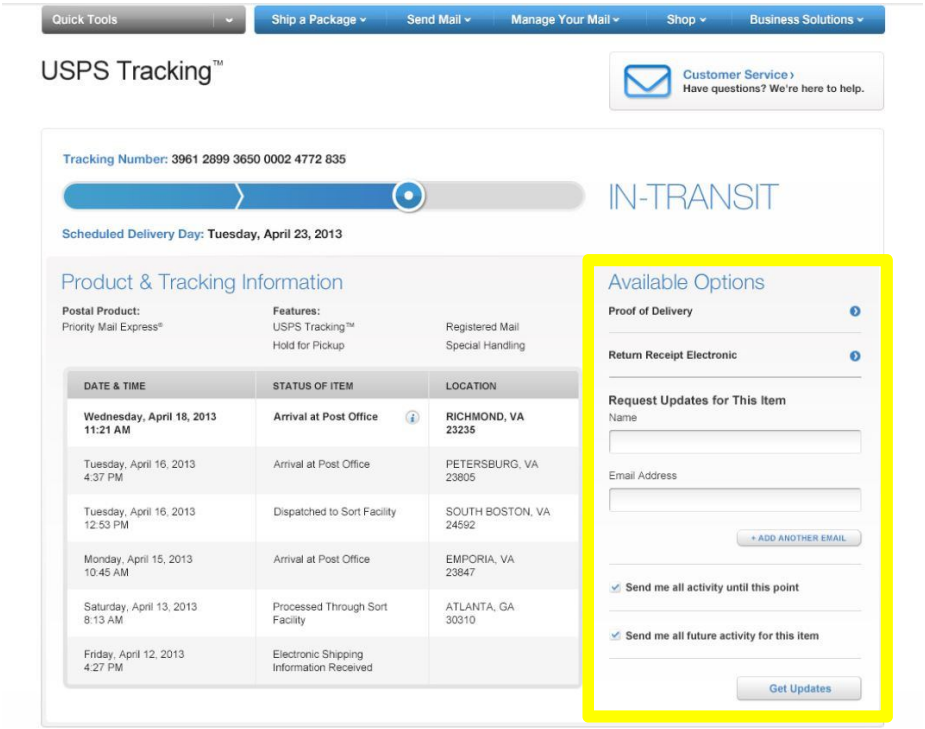
DATE & TIME	STATUS OF ITEM	LOCATION
Friday, April 19, 2013 10:37 AM	**Delivered**	**BALTIMORE, MD 21203**
Wednesday, April 18, 2013 11:21 AM	Arrival at Post Office	RICHMOND, VA 23235
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 4:37 PM	Arrival at Post Office	PETERSBURG, VA 23805
Tuesday, April 16, 2013 12:53 PM	Dispatched to Sort Facility	SOUTH BOSTON, VA 24592
Monday, April 15, 2013 10:45 AM	Arrival at Post Office	EMPORIA, VA 23847
Saturday, April 13, 2013 8:13 AM	Processed Through Sort Facility	ATLANTA, GA 30310
Friday, April 12, 2013 4:27 PM	Electronic Shipping Information Received	

Shipment Actions

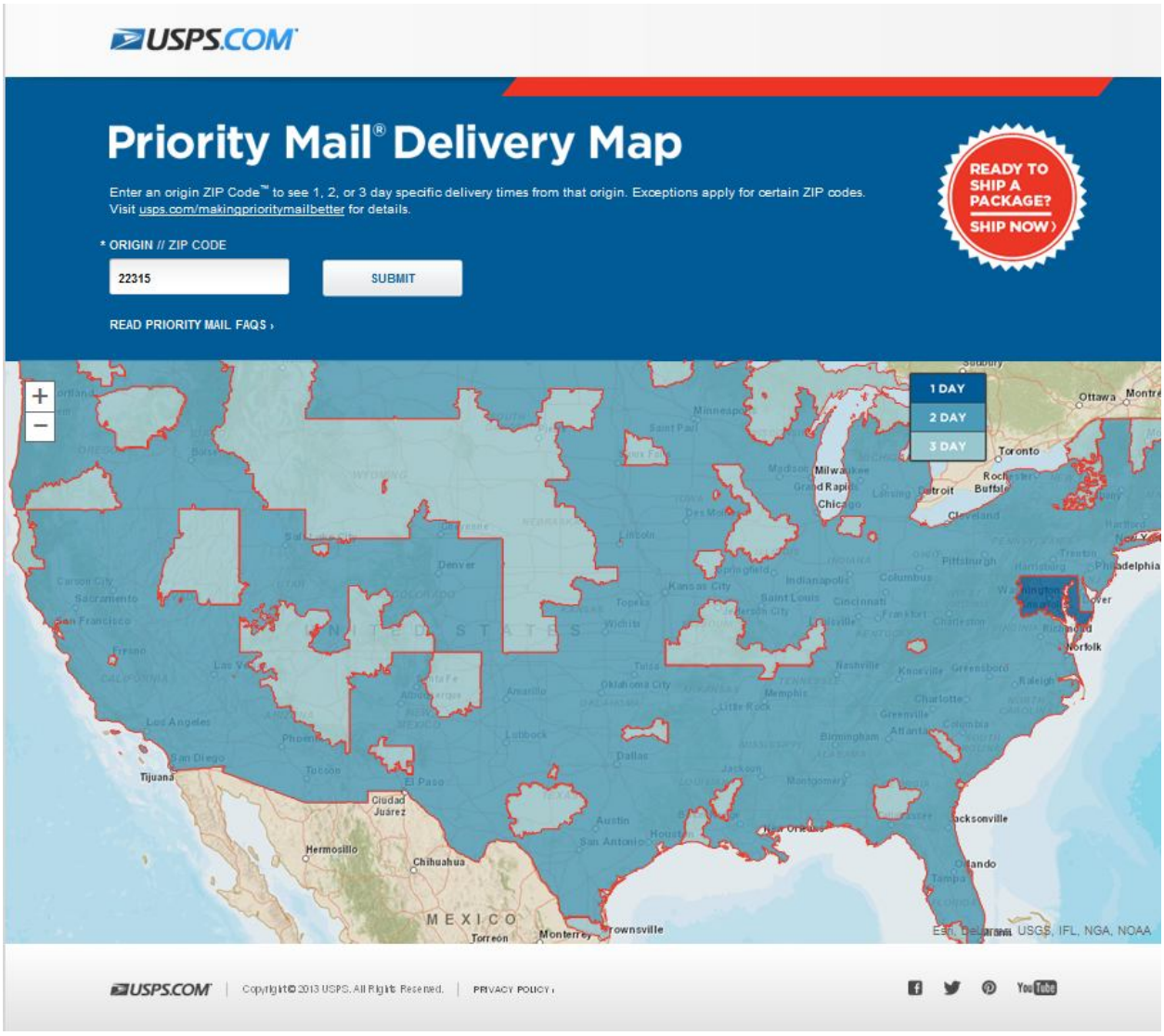
OLD



NEW



Priority Mail Delivery Map tool



Federal Register Proposed Rule – Kate Westermann

- New standards to enhance package visibility – 'IMpb 2.0'
  - Published July 11, 2013
  - Comment period closed August 1, 2013
  - Eight responses with comments and questions from the industry
  - Final Rule will be published later this month (August 2013)
  - Proposed per-piece fee will be charge for non-compliant pieces instead of losing presort/destination entry pricing

IMpb Compliance Category	Jan 2014	Jul 2014	Jan 2015
Unique trackable barcode (legacy or IMpb)	98%	99%	100%*
ZIP+4/destination delivery address in file	93%	96%	100%**
Shipping Services file v1.6 or higher	95%	98%	100%

***IMpb only by Jan 2015**
****Must contain street address/DPV 11-digit ZIP Code by Jan 2015**

  - Electronic documentation and Shipping Services File (SSF) requirements
    - By/For – must identify the mail owner and mailing agent in SSF 1.6 or higher, Mail.dat and Mail.xml by use of unique MIDs
    - Transaction ID
    - Payment/Permit Account #
    - Method of Payment
    - Post Office of Account
    - File edits simplified (same as eVS)
    - SSF transmission prior to tender to USPS
  - Proposes elimination of Certified Mail service for Priority products
    - Signature confirmation with restricted delivery alternative
  - Identification of hazardous materials and live animal shipments
  - No Commercial Base or Commercial Plus pricing for meter customers not meeting requirements
  - IMpb needed for 'baked-in' insurance on Priority Mail
  - Requires IMpb on all Merchandise Return Service parcels
  - Eliminates BRM for parcel-shaped returns

- Alternate Requirements by Mail Class
  - Bound Printed Matter (BPM) Parcels
    - BPM parcels may use Mail.dat in lieu of SSF
    - Effective October 20, 2013, with PTS and PostalOne! software releases
  - Priority Mail
    - Priority Mail flats in a high-speed environment may use IMb and Mail.dat or Mail.xml documentation in lieu of IMpb
      - No extra services, International or Priority Mail Express permitted with this option
      - Requires USPS approval
      - Does not qualify for 'baked-in' insurance
  - Priority Mail Express

        - USPSCA (US Postal Service Corporate Account) users are excluded from the IMpb requirements
    - Standard Mail Parcels
        - Standard Mail Marketing and Standard Mail Non-Profit parcels will require an IMpb or a unique IMb.
            - Includes product samples
            - Excludes Regular nad Non-Profit Standard Mail product samples with simplified address or Detached Address Labels
        - All Standard Mail parcels using unique IMbs may use either Mail.dat or Mail.XML in lieu of the SSF
        - Standard Mail parcels presorted and containerized to 5-digit level may use IMbs
        - IMbs must remain unique for 180 days

- Samples of Industry Comments/Questions/Suggestions
    - Compliance Thresholds and Mitigation
        - Thresholds are set too high
        - How will USPS document 'prove' compliance
        - Mitigating penalties in the case of USPS/Mailer communication failure
    - Need a subset of IMpb for Certified Mail that does not require a 9- or 11- digit ZIP code
    - Meter Mailer Difficulty
        - Customers using more than one meter company
        - MID problems
    - By/for requirement questions
        - Why does USPS need it?
        - What will USPS do with this data?
        - Perceived competitive advantage
    - Define 'complete' and 'correct' address
        - How will 11-digit ZIPs be provided?
        - From the DMM 602, a complete address is

Complete Addresses

1.4.1 Complete Address Definition

A complete address has all the address elements necessary to allow an exact match with the current USPS ZIP+4 Product to obtain the finest level of ZIP+4 code for the delivery address. A complete address may be required on mail at some automation prices.

1.4.2 Complete Address Elements

A complete delivery address includes:

a. Addressee name or other identifier and/or firm name where applicable.

b. Private mail box designator and number (PMB 300 or #300).

c. Urbanization name (Puerto Rico only, ZIP Code prefixes 006 to 009, if area is so designated).

d. Street number and name (including predirectional, suffix, and postdirectional as shown in USPS ZIP+4 Product for the delivery address or rural route and box number (RR 5 BOX 10), highway contract route and box number (HC 4 BOX 45), or Post Office box number (PO BOX 458), as shown in USPS ZIP+4 Product for the delivery address). ("PO Box ? is used incorrectly if preceding a private box number, e.g., a college mailroom.)

e. Secondary address unit designator and number (such as an apartment or suite number (APT 202, STE 100)).

f. City and state (or authorized two-letter state abbreviation). Use only city names and city and state name abbreviations as shown in USPS City State Product. Contact the National Customer Support Center (see 509.1.0) for more information about the City State Product.

g. Correct 5-digit ZIP Code or ZIP+4 code. If a firm name is assigned a unique ZIP+4 code in the USPS ZIP+4 Product, the unique ZIP+4 code must be used in the delivery address.

PTS Legacy Retirement – Kate Westermann

- EDW cutover to PTS-II is set for August 9-10, 2013
- BPOD cutover to PTS-II will take place on August 19, 2013
- Legacy system will be retired August 25, 2013

PTS-II Releases – Kate Westermann

- July 28, 2013 – PTS release 1.4 successfully implemented
  - Supports Product Simplification
  - Container events will be tracked in PTS-II
- August 10, 2013 – Release 1.2 implementation
  - Switching data source for EDW-PPR data from Legacy to PTS-II
  - Partial outage from 6:30PM August 10, 2013 to 12:30 AM August 11, 2013
  - Track and Confirm will be up during this time
  - No data posting or extracts during this time
- September 15, 2013 – Release 1.5 implementation
  - Address Validation Enhancements
    - Customers will not see errors/warnings on their CEW reports until a later date
    - USPS will continue to monitor data and change validation process if needed based on data research
  - Shipping Partner Event File version 3.0
    - Includes field for Destination Delivery Address
    - Includes 5 new Shipping Partner Events
    - Existing Shipping Partner Event Files formats will still be supported
  - Internal Reporting Enhancements
- October 20, 2013 – Release 1.6 implementation
  - IMpb Compliance Validation
  - Mail.dat translation for Shipping Services File v1.7 for BPM parcels
  - New Scan Event Extract File version
- De-scoped from Release 1.6
  - Remaining features for new Shipping Services file format
    - Overlabeling
    - Logical container records
    - Infrastructure changes
    - Will be in a future release

Label 400, USPS Tracking, Expansion – Kate Westermann

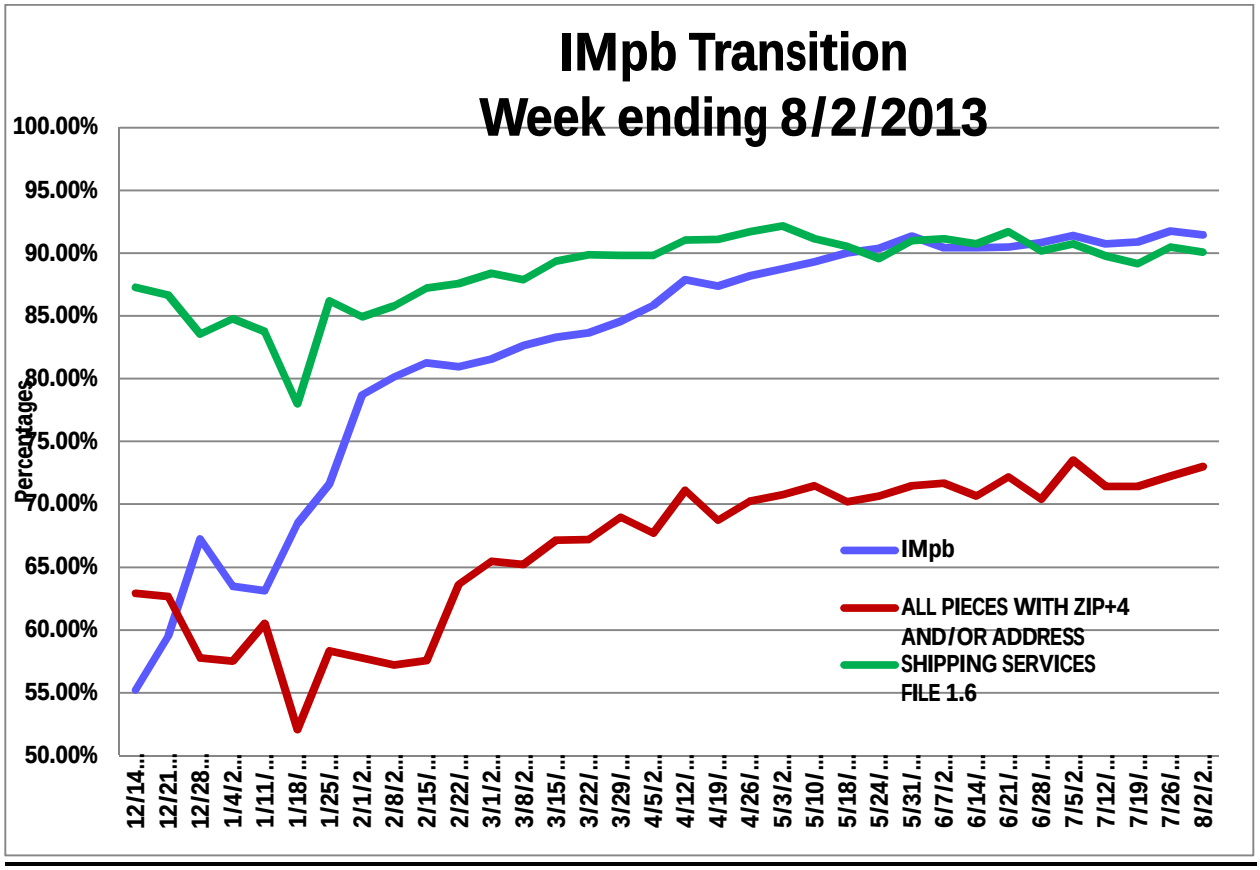
- Replaces 'Pink Top' labels at POS locations

- Better quality barcode, more distinctive appearance
- Currently used in Manual Offices, Contract Postal Units, meter and smaller parcel shippers
- Also used to track all USPS parcels without extra services barcoded labels
- Effective August 16, 2013

BPOD Updates – Ryan Seipp

- Runs continue out of PTs Legacy for one more week
  - Delivery occurring at approximately 2:30pm EST on Mondays
- All fixes have been deployed
  - Email communication will be sent out to notify customers
- BPOD cutover is set for Monday, August 18, 2013
  - Files will be provisioned out of PTS-II
  - Delivery of the files will revert to early Monday mornings
  -

IMpb Transition for week ending August 2, 2013



Source: PTS

eVS Status – Vicki Bosch

- Upcoming eVS PostalOne! Releases
  - 2013 Planned Release Schedule
    - October 13, 2013 Minor Release
  - 2014 Planned Release Schedule

- January 12, 2014 TEM Release
- January 26, 2014 Major Release
- July 13, 2014 TEM Release
- July 27, 2014 Major Release
- October 26, 2104 Minor Release

- eVS: New adjustments
  - New adjustments
    - IMpb assessment is being postponed until January 2014
      - Details for non-compliant packages will be provided by PTS
      - These will appear in a report similar to the current unmanifested report
      - We will determine the thresholds for the month for eVS mailers and if outside the tolerance will be assessed additional postage
      - Note: IMpb assessments for non-eVS customers will have functionality requested for January 2014 as well
    - New adjustments in July 2013
      - Incorrect Packaging Report is not functioning as intended, therefore we are not charging at this time
      - Sampled Incorrect packaging – Priority, Priority Mail Express and Critical Mail
        - Packages presented in USPS packaging that are not manifested as the corresponding mail class will be identified and place in a new report "Sample Incorrect Packaging Report"
        - The postage for these will be adjusted to the applicable Priority, Express, or Critical Mail postage (similar to current mis-shipped functionality)

- eVS: October 20, 1013
  - Proposed requirements submitted for October
  - Easier on-boarding for eVS
  - New functionality
    - As new adjustments are established, these adjustments will be indicated as "Pilot Adjustment"
    - Once adjustments are validated as accurate, will be set to "Live Adjustment"
  - Fixes
    - Duplicate EFNs will not be processed
    - Weekly reconciliation extracts will be fixed for multiple classes of mail
    - The Postage Discrepancy Report will now include STAT samples and display more than 50 items, when applicable
    - The Manifest Summary Report will display manifested postage
    - Reconcile Sample Report will display correct sampled date instead of manifested date
    - Monthly Adjustment Summary Tab will allow zero dollar adjustment, as needed

- PUB 205 Updates
    - Currently available on RIBBS
    - Last update Publication 205 – April 21, 2013
    - Next update - August 9, 2013
    - The following update will be November 8, 2013

Industry Feedback – Kate Westermann

- No industry feedback to review

Action Item Review

- Industry recommend reconvening Task Team #19 to revisit compliance thresholds pursuant to January 2013 FR final rule
    - Tentatively scheduled for July 16, 2013 at 3:00pm ET
- USPS needs to poll the group for feedback concerning how they want to receive feedback on invalid address information.
    - Polling email to be sent out soon
- Shipping Information Systems to examine the preferability of Address and/or ZIP+4 issue in the SSF. Consult with Engineering, Operations and other stakeholders
    - USPS prefers both the Address and the ZIP+4 if available
    - USPS needs Address at a minimum

New Action Items

- Need to look into the Mail.dat file
    - PostalOne! does not support Priority Mail in the Mail.dat
    - Is the conversion of Priority Mail Mail.dat to Shipping Services File pulled from the January release?
- In the Federal Register notice include that those customers with expiring exceptions should request an extension if they need it. Exceptions will expire if customers do not request extensions.
- Put Postal Bulletin out about the change of the date in the PUB 199

Questions/Comments

- MTAC Task Team 19 was a good process for discussing the proposed thresholds. This task team should continue as we move through the compliance phases.
- Is the Shipping Partner 3.0 file optional?
    - Yes, it is optional. File versions 1.0 and 2.0 will still be supported
- The overlabeling has been de-scoped from the 1.6 release. What is the new date?
    - A new date has not been determined

Next meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013 at 3:30p EST